



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Cambridge Arts Council
presents the
31st Cambridge River Festival
FREE festival of music, dance, theater, poetry, visual arts & more!

and introduces
FIGMENT
an interactive arts event

June 5, 2010, 12:00 Noon – 6:00 p.m. (rain or shine)
along the Charles River (Memorial Dr. between JFK St. & Western Ave.)

Cambridge, MA – The 31st Annual **Cambridge River Festival** creates a splash on Saturday, June 5, 2010, 12:00 Noon – 6:00 p.m. (rain or shine) with a FREE, one-day celebration of the arts on a mile-long stretch along the banks of the Charles River (Memorial Drive between JFK Street and Western Avenue). Attracting over 200,000 enthusiastic festival-goers annually, the Cambridge River Festival has become a venerable and much-anticipated “institution,” produced by the Cambridge Arts Council (CAC), the city’s official arts agency. The Cambridge River Festival offers an opportunity to experience arts, cultural and community organizations active year-round in Cambridge, and get inspired to delve more deeply into the local arts scene. Information is available at www.cambridgeartscouncil.org or 617-349-4380.

DOWNLOAD PRESS PHOTOS: <http://www.cambridgema.gov/gallery/?AlbumID=315>

The **Cambridge River Festival** features multiple stages of live local and national jazz, folk, world music, dance, poetry and theater performances by Cambridge artists, music venues, arts and cultural organizations including The Jazz Club at the Multicultural Arts Center, TOAD and the Lizard Lounge, Central Square Theater, José Mateo Ballet Theatre, and Cambridge Poet Populist Jean-Dany Joachim. Entertainment also includes interactive, family, art-making activities, performances, workshops and demonstrations. (See below for a schedule of events.) While taking in the sights and sounds, browse through a market of unique arts & crafts, and enjoy a grand assortment of specialty foods and traditional festival fare.

This year’s **Cambridge River Festival**, the Cambridge Arts Council honors the memory of legendary storyteller “Brother Blue.” The Festival opens with a procession led by a large-scale puppet of Brother Blue and his iconic butterflies, created by Eric Bornstein of Behind the Mask Theater. The procession starts at 11:30 a.m. in Winthrop Park in Harvard Square (JFK St. and Mt. Auburn St.) and processes

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along JFK St. to the Charles River. The Brother Blue puppet will be heralded onto the festival grounds with entertainment from Revels River Festival Chorus, A Different Spin Circus and Fire Arts, Central Square Theater, Actors' Shakespeare Project, and many others. The procession culminates at the Theater Stage (Memorial Drive at Plympton Street) where Revels will lead a group sing-along of a *Song for Blue*, an original composition honoring Brother Blue. At 12:00 Noon, puppet butterflies flutter to several activity locations, where storytelling activities will take place throughout the day.

"Brother Blue was a one-of-kind Cambridge treasure. We wanted to give him a larger-than-life tribute at the Cambridge River Festival to carry on his gift of sharing stories that touch our hearts and spark our imagination," said CAC Executive Director, Jason Weeks.

As a special addition to this year's **Cambridge River Festival**, the Cambridge Arts Council introduces FIGMENT. In collaboration with the CAC, FIGMENT – an arts event featuring participatory arts projects in every conceivable medium, including interactive sculpture, performance, music, social experiments, games, and lectures – takes place side-by-side with the Cambridge River Festival along Memorial Drive in River Bend Park across from John F. Kennedy Memorial Park. More information is available at <http://figmentproject.org/2010/events/figment-boston-2010/>.

CAMBRIDGE RIVER FESTIVAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 12 NOON – 6PM

Opening Ceremony and Procession, 11:30a.m.

Tribute to legendary, local storyteller Brother Blue

Winthrop Park in Harvard Square (JFK and Mt. Auburn St.) to Charles River

Large-scale puppet of Brother Blue and many blue butterflies created by Eric Bornstein of Behind the Mask Theater lead the procession, culminating with a group sing-along of *Song for Blue*, composed and led by Revels. Follow the blue butterflies as they disperse throughout the festival leading the way to activity areas, celebrating storytelling, street performing, and the art of words.

CREATE STAGE – GOSPEL & JAZZ

Weld Boathouse at JFK Street

Coordinated by The Jazz Club at the Multicultural Arts Center

Hosted by Eric Jackson and Steven Schwartz of WGBH 89.7fm

- 12:00 Valerie Stephens Group / tribute to Nina Simone with vocalist Valerie Stephens, Kevin Harris, keyboard, Stanley Swan, drums, and Daniel Day, bass
- 1:15 Newman Yoron Israel Group / tribute to David "Fathead"
- 2:30 Stan Strickland Group / tribute to John Coltrane with Stan Strickland, saxophones and flute, John Lockwood, bass, and Laszlo Gardony, piano
- 3:45 Shelley Neill Group / *Irish Eyes Gypsy Soul* with Laszlo Gardony, Yoron Israel, and Ron Mahdi
- 5:00 Mango Blue with Alex Alvear, bass & vocals, Rebecca Cline, keyboards, Ernesto Diaz, congas, Manolo Mairena, vocals, timbal & percussion, David Rivera, drums, Felipe Salles, tenor sax, Jared Sims, alto sax, and Yuriana Sobrino, vocals, timbal & percussion

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INSPIRE STAGE – THEATER

Memorial Drive at Plympton Street (Harvard University Side)

Coordinated by selected by Central Square Theater

Hosted by Maggie Moore Abdow, Education Director, Underground Railway Theater

- 12:00 American Repertory Theater / excerpts from *Johnny Baseball*
- 12:25 Actors' Shakespeare Project / scenes from A.S.P. past & future productions
- 12:45 Central Square Theater / excerpts from *The Lady with All the Answers* & *The Hound of the Baskervilles*
- 12:45 Central Square Theater / workshop: Photo Call! (On-going as appropriate throughout day)
- 1:10 ImprovBoston / great musicals from ImprovBoston history
- 1:40 Actors' Shakespeare Project / combat workshop: led by A.S.P. Resident Company Member Robert Walsh
- 2:35 American Repertory Theater / performances from *The Donkey Show*
- 2:55 American Repertory Theater / workshop: learn the Bus Stop and boogie down with the cast of *The Donkey Show* on stage
- 3:30 Central Square Theater / excerpts from *The Lady with All the Answers* & *The Hound of the Baskervilles*
- 3:40 Beyond the 4th Wall / workshop: Acting for Dummies
- 4:00 ImprovBoston / The ImprovBoston Family Show
- 4:25 Actors' Shakespeare Project / scenes from A.S.P. past & future productions
- 4:45 ImprovBoston / ImprovBoston family workshop
- 5:25 ImprovBoston / Friday Night Face Off
- 5:45 Central Square Theater / workshop: Photo Call! (On and Offstage)

CONNECT STAGE – FOLK & ROOTS

Weeks Footbridge at DeWolfe Street

Coordinated by TOAD and The Lizard Lounge

Hosted by Tim Bianchi, Cambridge-based Musician

- 12:00 The Sweet and Low Down (featuring Miss Tess and Rachael Price)
- 1:00 The David Wax Museum
- 2:00 Melvern Taylor and His Fabulous Meltones
- 2:50 Ronald Reagan (a sax duo performing hits from the 80s)
- 3:00 Cuddle Magic
- 3:50 Ronald Reagan
- 4:00 Danielle Miraglia
- 4:50 Ronald Regan
- 5:00 The Sea Monsters

ENGAGE STAGE – INTERACTIVE DANCE

Memorial Drive across from Flagg Street

Coordinated by José Mateo Ballet Theatre & Dance for World Community

Hosted by Alice Hunter, Cambridge-based choreographer and instructor

- 12:00 José Mateo Ballet Theatre Youth Works
- 1:00 OrigiNation Cultural Arts Center / hip-hop step
- 2:00 La Pinata / samba, capoeira & more
- 3:00 Mladost Folk Ensemble
- 4:00 Hyde Square Task Force - Ritmo en Accion / salsa, meringue & more
- 5:00 Benkadi Drum and Dance / African dance

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CHILDREN & FAMILY STAGE

Corporal Burns Park (Memorial Drive and Flagg Street)

Coordinated by the Cambridge Arts Council

Hosted by Lace Campbell, Artistic Director of Beyond the 4th Wall

12:00 Dan Butterworth Marionettes

1:00 Beyond the 4th Wall / youth theatrical performances

2:00 Odissi Dance by Upasana / lyrical dance from India

3:00 Inkas Wasi / Andean music, dance & traditions

4:00 Behind the Mask Theater / *The Woman Who Outshone the Sun*

5:00 Vanessa Trien and the Jumping Monkeys / movin', groovin' kids' music

INTERACTIVE AREAS, ART DEMONSTRATIONS & WORKSHOPS:

MASK- MAKING DISPLAY & DEMONSTRATIONS WITH BEHIND THE MASK THEATER

Next to the INSPIRE STAGE – THEATER

Host: Eric Bornstein, local artist and proprietor of Behind the Mask Theater

See unique hand-made, large-scale puppets and masks and learn how they are created!

CAMBRIDGE OPEN STUDIOS ARTIST DEMONSTRATIONS & WORKSHOPS

Memorial Drive at the Weeks Footbridge

Hosts: Karen Yoo and Siobhan Bredin

Cambridge Open Studios Artists showcase their works and give hands-on art making demonstrations and instruction.

Throughout the day:

Kelsey Russell / *Tabula Rasa Art*, an interactive community painting project

Wen-hao Tian / contemporary Chinese calligraphy

Tamar Etingen / screen printing

Bobby Brown / hands-on creative workshop using recycled materials

1:00 Bobby Brown / book readings

2:00 Siobhan Bredin & Cambridge Vintage Mystery Theatre / *The Perplexing Public Paintings Puzzle*, 1940s-style mystery play with live sound effects, followed by hands-on sound effects experimentation for kids & grown-ups

CAMBRIDGE FOLKLIFE – A SPECTRUM OF CAMBRIDGE CULTURES OLD AND NEW

Memorial Drive at the Weeks Footbridge

Host: Folklorist Millie Rahn

STORYSTREAM CAMBRIDGE

Memorial Drive at the Weeks Footbridge

POETRY

Memorial Drive at the Weeks Footbridge

Host: Jean-Dany Joachim, Cambridge's Poet Populist 2009/2010

See a variety of poetry readings and activities taking place throughout the day.

MASSMOUTH

On the Weeks FootBridge

This CAC Grantee brings stories to non-traditional venues, from apple orchards to urban street corners, to story slams, and engages a new generation of tellers online, through blogs, websites and by posting video and audio recordings of story in live performance.

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JUDITH MOTZKIN'S GARDEN TOTEMS

CAC Grant funded project designing community totems from clay

CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC AND AFTER-SCHOOL AREA

Corporal Burns Park (Memorial Drive and Flagg Street)

Host: Naomi Bennett

Includes: New England Folk Music Archives and The Haggerty School and Community Art Center

Roving Performance

A Different Spin Circus and Fire Arts

Cady Vishniac and Amy Suiguitan as Living Statues

Brett Sylvia's Op Puppet

Roger Wiegand's Victorian Fairground Organ

Public Art Installations

Sidewalk Sam

Corner of Memorial Drive and JFK Street

Kendall Dudley's Public Art for Peace, Children Make the Difference Project

River Bend Park across from Corporal Burns Park

Co-sponsored by Barakat World. Experience artifacts of daily life from Central Asia; create visual, audio, and written messages for the women and children living in the Barakat World sister communities of Afghanistan; and learn about Barakat World and the cultures of Central Asia.

Introducing FIGMENT

River Bend Park across from John F. Kennedy Memorial Park

The Cambridge Arts Council welcomes FIGMENT, an arts event featuring participatory arts projects in every conceivable medium, taking place side-by-side the Cambridge River Festival. Play, interact, enjoy!

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QUICK FACTS

CAMBRIDGE ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS THE 31ST CAMBRIDGE RIVER FESTIVAL & INTRODUCES FIGMENT: SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2010

WHAT: 31st Cambridge River Festival
Celebrate the arts with this FREE festival along the banks of the Charles River, featuring:

- Hundreds of local and nationally renowned jazz, folk, blues, and world music performers on multiple stages
- Interactive dance, theater, storytelling, and poetry performances & demonstrations
- Public art installations designed for the festival
- Family entertainment & art-making activities
- Over 200 specialty food purveyors and craftspeople
- **FIGMENT:** The Cambridge Arts Council welcomes FIGMENT to Boston. Featuring participatory arts projects in every conceivable medium, including interactive sculpture, performance, music, social experiments, games, and lectures, this interactive “arts event” takes place alongside the Cambridge River Festival between Akron Street and Western Avenue along Memorial Drive. FIGMENT is co-presented by the Action Arts League, Inc. and the Cambridge Arts Council.

Information: <http://figmentproject.org/2010/events/figment-boston-2010>

WHEN: Saturday, June 5, 2010, 12 Noon – 6pm *Rain or Shine!*

WHERE: Along a mile-long stretch of Memorial Drive between JFK St. and Western Ave.
Between Harvard Square & Central Square on Memorial Drive
Nearest MBTA station: Harvard Square on the Red Line
Wheelchair accessible

ATTENDANCE: 200,000 annually

ADMISSION: Event is FREE

PRODUCER: Cambridge Arts Council – an award-winning city arts agency founded in 1974
www.cambridgeartscouncil.org or 617-349-4380

MEDIA CONTACTS:

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PHOTOS:

300 dpi photos are available at <http://www.cambridgema.gov/gallery/?AlbumID=315>

SPONSORS (as of May 12, 2010)

Festival Sponsors: Volkswagen Group of America, UMASS/Caitlin Raymond International Registry, LAUNCH!/Dr. Oetker Ristorante Pizza, Dunkin Donuts, Owens Corning, and ACM Quick Cash

Media Sponsors: Panorama Magazine, WGBH, Weekly Dig, and Artscope Magazine

Site Sponsors: City of Cambridge, Department of Conservation & Recreation, and Harvard University

Cambridge Arts Council – Nurturing the Arts in Cambridge

The Cambridge Arts Council exists to ensure that the arts remain vital for people living, working and visiting Cambridge.

www.cambridgeartscouncil.org

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